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ANNO REGNI

GEORGII III.

REGIS

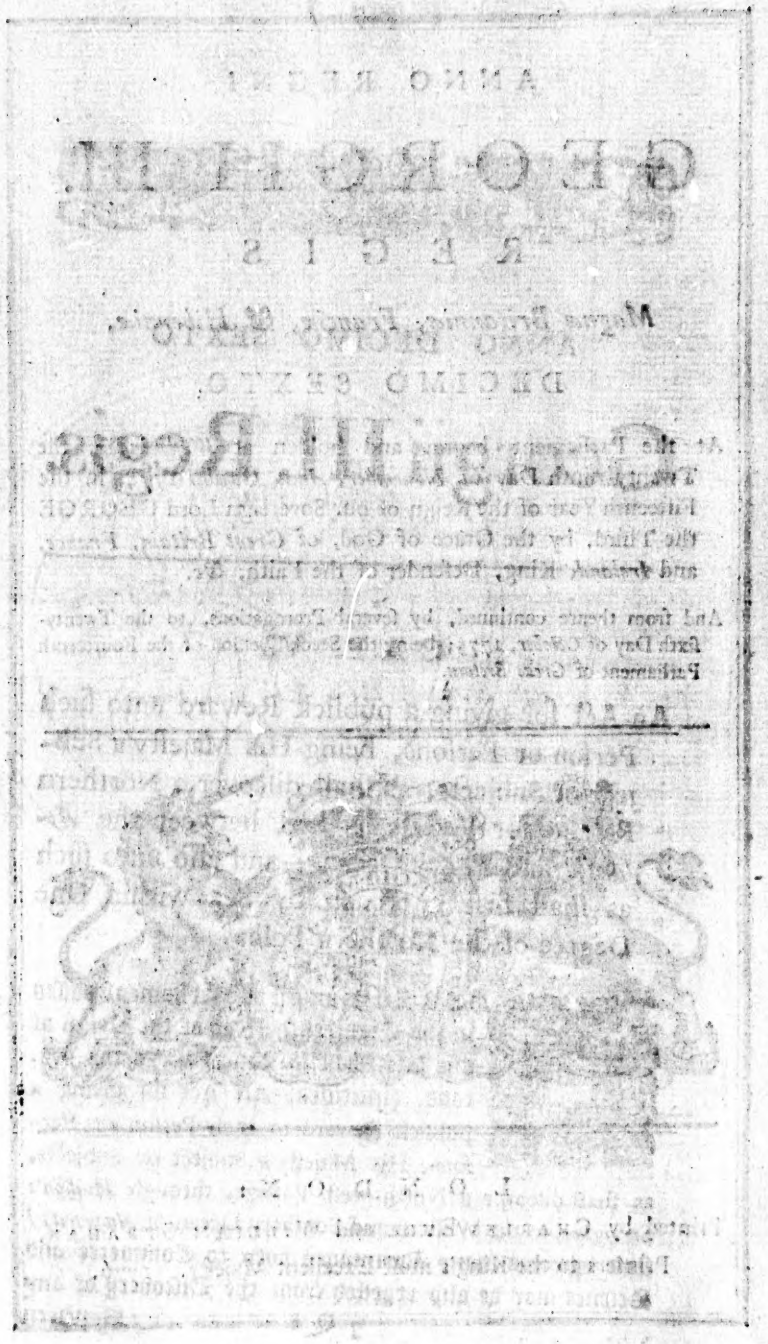
Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

DECIMO SEXTO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Weſtminſter*, the Twenty-ninth Day of *November*, *Anno Domini* 1774, in the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

And from thence continued, by ſeveral Prorogations, to the Twenty-ſixth Day of *October*, 1775; being the Second Seſſion of the Fourteenth Parliament of *Great Britain*.

LONDON:
Printed by CHARLES EYRE and WILLIAM STRAHAN,
Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1776.



ANNO DECIMO SEXTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. VI.

An Act for giving a publick Reward unto such Person or Persons, being His Majesty's Subject or Subjects, as shall discover a Northern Passage for Vessels by Sea, between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans; and also unto such as shall first approach by Sea within One Degree of the Northern Pole.

WHEREAS an Act of Parliament passed in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, (intituled, An Act for giving a publick Reward to such Person or Persons, His Majesty's Subject or Subjects, as shall discover a North-west Passage, through *Hudson's Streights*, to the Western and Southern Ocean of *America*:) and whereas many Advantages both to Commerce and Science may be also expected from the Discovery of any Northern Preamble.

Northern Passage for Vessels by Sea, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or to His Majesty, shall find out and sail through any Passage by Sea, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, in any Direction or Parallel of the Northern Hemisphere to the Northward of the Fifty-second Degree of Northern Latitude, the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, if belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen of such Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, if belonging to His Majesty, shall receive as a Reward for such Discovery the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds.

If any Ship belonging to His Majesty, *etc.* shall sail between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans beyond the 52d Degree, Commander, *etc.* shall receive a Reward of 20,000 *l.*

And whereas the Ships employed both in the Spitzbergen Seas, and in Davis's Streights, have frequent Opportunities of approaching the North Pole, though they have not Time, during the Course of One Summer, to penetrate into the Pacific Ocean: And whereas such Approaches may greatly tend to the Discovery of a Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, as well as be attended with many Advantages both to Commerce and Science, be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, shall approach to within One Degree of the Northern Pole, the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, if belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, of such Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, if belonging to His Majesty, so first approaching to within One Degree of the Northern Pole, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be entitled to receive, and shall receive, as a Reward for such first Approach towards the Northern Pole, the Sum of Five thousand Pounds.

or shall approach to within One Degree of the Northern Pole, shall receive a Reward of 5,000 *l.*

And in order to ascertain who are the first Discoverers of the said Northern Passage into the Pacific Ocean, and who are the first Approachers to within One Degree of the Northern Pole, and to whom the Rewards by this Act respectively given do belong; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners appointed for the Purposes of the said Act of the Eighteenth of George the Second, and also such other Persons as for the Time being are Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners for the Purposes of this present Act; and are hereby authorised and impowered to call for the respective Journal or Journals, Book or Books, and Papers, kept on Board the respective Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels of the Claimant or Claimants respectively, and also to examine, upon Oath, all such Persons as they the said Commissioners shall think proper with regard to any Claim or Claims, as well as any Person or Persons produced by the respective Claimant or Claimants of the respective Rewards given as aforesaid by this Act; (which Oath the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, are hereby impowered and required to administer): And the said Commissioners, or the major Part of those that shall meet (such major Part, nevertheless, at all Times consisting of Thirteen Commissioners at the least, of which the Lord High Admiral, or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the Time being, and the Royal Astronomer of Greenwich for the Time being, shall be Two) being fully satisfied, upon Examination and Proof, that such Northern Passage by Sea into the Pacific Ocean is effectually discovered, and sailed through as aforesaid, and that such Approach towards the Northern Pole, as aforesaid, has been then first actually made by Sea, or that either the one or the other has been fully accomplished within the Meaning of this Act, as the Case may be, are hereby authorised and required to grant a Certificate or Certificates accordingly, under their Hands and Seals, to such Person or Persons as they shall judge are intitled to the same respectively; which Certificate or

Commissioners appointed to determine who are intitled to the said Rewards;

who are impowered to call for Journals, Books, *etc.*

Commissioners to grant Certificates upon Proof made of Discovery, *etc.*

on producing whereof, Commissioners of the Treasury to pay the Reward.

Certificates shall be produced to the Lord High Treasurer, or any Three or more of the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, and the said Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds, and the said Sum of Five thousand Pounds, or the one or the other, as the Case may be, shall be respectively paid to such Person or Persons as are named in the said Certificate or Certificates respectively, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, out of any the Aids or Supplies which shall be granted in Parliament to his Majesty, his Heirs, or Successors, after the said Discovery of the said Northern Passage into the Pacific Ocean, and the said Approach to within One Degree of the Northern Pole, or the one or the other, as the Case may be, shall be made, effectuated, and proved, and the said Certificate produced as aforesaid.

All Claims to the Rewards to be made within Six Months after Arrival at any Port in *Great Britain* or *Ireland*.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the respective Claim or Claims on behalf of any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, unto the Rewards given by this Act, or either of them, shall be made respectively, and entered with, or be by Letter signified to, the Secretary of the Lord High Admiral, or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the Time being, at the Admiralty Office in London, within Six Months from the Time that such Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, shall have arrived at any Port of Great Britain or Ireland, otherwise the respective Claimant or Claimants shall not be intitled to receive, nor shall receive, either of the said Rewards; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proviso.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Rewards, or either of them, shall be claimed by and adjudged to the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen of any Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, belonging to his Majesty, the same shall be disposed in favour of, and distributed among such Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, in such Proportions as shall be directed by his Majesty in Council, and in no other Manner.

FINIS.